AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended)   A method of reserving a space from among a plurality of spaces at a location, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a reservation request inputted into a graphical user interface of a reservation system utilized to provide reservations for one of the plurality of spaces at said location, said reservation request including date and time information for which said reservation is made;

providing an electronic payment method for receiving payment for an issued reservation corresponding to said reservation request; [[and]]

outputting, in response to the receipt of payment, a reservation coupon, which includes an identifying bar code that enables access to the location via a bar code reader, and wherein when the reservation assigns a particular space among the plurality of spaces, the reservation coupon also includes a space identifier indicating the particular space that is assigned to the reservation; and

updating a reservation period linked to the reservation coupon by an additional period on payment by the customer for the additional period, wherein the customer is able to extend a reservation after said reservation coupon has been printed when the reserved space had not been allocated to another customer.

2.   (previously presented)   A method of reserving a space from among a plurality of spaces at a location, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a reservation request inputted into a graphical user interface of a reservation system utilized to provide reservations for one of the plurality of spaces at said location, said reservation request including date and time information for which said reservation is made;

providing an electronic payment method for receiving payment for an issued reservation corresponding to said reservation request;

outputting, in response to the receipt of payment, a reservation coupon, which includes an identifying bar code that enables access to the location via a bar code reader, and wherein when the reservation assigns a particular space among the plurality of spaces, the reservation coupon also includes a space identifier indicating the particular space that is assigned to the reservation;

instructing a recipient of the reservation coupon to visibly display said reservation coupon to allow said identifying bar code to be read when said reservation coupon is used while passing through an entrance and an exit of said location; and

tracking use of the space and remaining available spaces within the location by monitoring which reservation coupons are presented at the entrance and exit of the location.

3.   (previously presented)   The method of Claim 1, wherein when only a predetermined percentage of spaces are available at said location, said providing step includes the step of:

activating an auction utility to enable multiple users to start bidding for one of said spaces, wherein a user with a highest bid is awarded the space and issued a corresponding reservation coupon.

4.   (previously presented)   A method of reserving a space from among a plurality of spaces at a location, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving a reservation request inputted into a graphical user interface of a reservation system utilized to provide reservations for one of the plurality of spaces at said location, said reservation request including date and time information for which said reservation is made;

providing an electronic payment method for receiving payment for an issued reservation corresponding to said reservation request;

outputting, in response to the receipt of payment, a reservation coupon, which includes an identifying bar code that enables access to the location via a bar code reader, and wherein when the reservation assigns a particular space among the plurality of spaces, the reservation coupon also includes a space identifier indicating the particular space that is assigned to the reservation;

receiving a request to extend said reservation period from the recipient of the reservation coupon;

extending said reservation period when there space has not been previously issued to another recipient, wherein said extending occurs after said reservation coupon has been issued and said extending is updated within the reservation system to apply to the previously issued reservation coupon; and

requesting an electronic payment for an extension to a reservation acquired by said extending step, wherein said electronic payment is received prior to said reservation period being

extended when there is no monitoring of the location to collect payment for the additional reservation.

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said space is a parking space, and said method further comprises the step of selecting a valet option with said reservation request, wherein a valet receives the recipient's vehicle at a predetermined valet location and parks the recipient's vehicle within the location at the beginning of the reservation period and the valet retrieves and delivers the recipient's vehicle at an end of said reservation period.

6. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
enabling connection of a customer terminal to a reservation website via the Internet; and
enabling a customer interaction via said graphical user interface (GUI) to transact said reservation request.

7. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of setting up a customer account with personal and payment information to reduce customer interface time with said GUI when making a subsequent reservation request.

8. (currently amended) A space reservation computer system comprising:
a database of locations that each provide a plurality of spaces that may be reserved;
a graphical user interface that receives a customer's request for a space at one of said locations;
an availability utility that determines whether said space is available;
electronic payment mechanism for receiving electronic payment to reserve the space for the customer; [[and]]
output means for, in response to said space being available, providing said customer with a printable reservation coupon containing information by which access to said location is controlled, wherein when the reservation assigns a particular space among the plurality of spaces, the reservation coupon also includes a space identifier indicating the particular space that is assigned to the reservation; and

an extension utility that allows said customer to extend a reservation after said reservation coupon has been printed when the reserved space had not been allocated to another customer, wherein the extension utility updates the reservation period linked to the coupon code by an additional period upon payment by the customer for the additional period.

9.   (previously presented)   The computer system of Claim 8, further comprising a customer terminal on which said GUI is displayed.

10.   (previously presented)   The computer system of Claim 8, further comprising an auctioning utility that:

    monitors a number of spaces available at each of said locations; and

    in response to a reservation request at a location that has less than a predetermine number of spaces available, activates an auction for each of said number of spaces available, wherein each space is reserved to a highest bidder.

11-12. (canceled)

13.   (currently amended)   A space reservation computer system comprising:

    a database of locations that each provide a plurality of spaces that may be reserved;

    a graphical user interface that receives a customer's request for a space at one of said locations;

    an availability utility that determines whether said space is available;

    electronic payment mechanism for receiving electronic payment to reserve the space for the customer;

    output means for, in response to said space being available, providing said customer with a printable reservation coupon containing information by which access to said location is controlled, wherein when the reservation assigns a particular space among the plurality of spaces, the reservation coupon also includes a space identifier indicating the particular space that is assigned to the reservation;

a server on which said GUI and said availability utility are executed, wherein said server is coupled to said database of locations and periodically updates said database of location based on current use of the reserved spaces and current availability of spaces previously reserved[[.]];

a location monitoring mechanism linked to said server and which monitors an entrance and exit of said location to determine when said space is utilized and provides feedback of a utilization of said space to said server; and

wherein said reservation coupon includes a bar code readable by a remote bar code scanner, wherein further said location monitoring mechanism includes said remote bar code scanner and monitors an entry into and exit from said location by requiring the customer scan said reservation coupon at the entrance and exit of the location.

14.   (currently amended) The computer system of Claim [[12]] 13, wherein said server automatically updates said database of locations in response to both an acceptance of a reservation request and said utilization.

15.   (previously presented) The computer system of Claim 13, wherein, when said utilization exceeds a reservation period, an additional charge is accrued and billed to said customer.

16.   (previously presented) The computer system of Claim 8, further including a seasonal adjusting utility that dynamically increases customer's cost for said space during seasons/periods with a high number of reservations.

17.   (canceled)

18.   (previously presented) The computer system of Claim 8, wherein said location is a car park for parking at an airport terminal, wherein said computer system is linked to a flight reservation system and includes:

means for automatically querying an airline passenger booking a reservation within a flight reservation GUI whether the airline passenger desires to park a vehicle within the car park; and

means for processing a request for a parking reservation at a the car park of the airport terminal upon selection by the airline passenger of a car parking reservation option from within the flight reservation GUI of the flight reservation system.

19.   (previously presented)   The computer system of Claim 8, wherein said location offers open reservation that allows any one of a plurality of spaces within said location to be utilized by a customer with a reservation coupon.

20.   (currently amended)   A computer program product comprising:
a computer readable medium;
program instructions stored on said computer readable medium for:
managing a database of locations that each provide a plurality of spaces that may be reserved;
providing a graphical user interface that receives a customer's request for a space at one of said locations and an availability utility that determines whether said space is available; [[and]]
providing an electronic payment method for receiving payment for an issued reservation corresponding to said reservation request;
in response to said space being available and receipt of payment, outputting to said customer a printable reservation coupon containing information by which access to said one location is controlled, wherein when the reservation assigns a particular space among the plurality of spaces, the reservation coupon also includes a space identifier indicating the particular space that is assigned to the reservation; and
tracking use of the space and updating available remaining spaces within the location by receiving data about which reservation coupons are presented at the entrance and exit of the location.

21.   (previously presented)   The computer program product of Claim 20, wherein said program instructions further comprise instructions for:
monitoring a number of spaces available at each of said locations; and

in response to a reservation request for a location that has less than a predetermine number of spaces available, activating an auction for each of said number of spaces available, wherein each space is bided for by one or more customers desirous of reserving the space and the space is reserved to a highest bidder among the one or more customers.

22.   (previously presented)   The computer program product of Claim 20, further comprising program instructions that control receipt of information from a location monitoring mechanism that monitors an entrance and exit of said location to determine when said space is utilized and provides feedback of a utilization of said space.

23.   (original) The computer program product of Claim 20, further including program instructions for implementing a season adjusting utility that dynamically increases customer's cost for said space during a high reservation period.

24.   (previously presented)   The computer program product of Claim 20, further comprising program instructions for executing an extension utility that allows said customer to extend a reservation request after an initial reservation has been received, wherein when the reservation if for a specific space, the period associated with the customer's coupon code is dynamically adjusted to reflect additional period added by the request to extend the reservation.

25.   (previously presented)   The computer program product of Claim 20, wherein said computer program controls a car parking reservation system for parking a vehicle at an airline terminal, wherein, when said car parking reservation system is linked to a flight reservation system, said program instructions for controlling said car parking reservation system includes instructions for automatically processing a request for a reservation at a terminal parking facility by selecting a car reservation option from within a flight reservation GUI.

26.   (currently amended)   A method, carried out by a server communicatively connected to a plurality of clients in a network environment, for managing a parking location having a plurality of separate parking spaces, said method comprising:

receiving, from one of said clients, a parking request for said parking location for a specific duration of time between a beginning time and an ending time;

accessing a database and determining a status of the parking location during the specific duration of time;

receiving an electronic payment for an issued reservation corresponding to said reservation request;

sending, over the network to the client, a printable reservation ticket having machine readable information including the beginning time and the ending time and identification information for a user using the client to make the parking request, wherein when the reservation ticket assigns a particular space among the plurality of separate parking spaces, the reservation ticket also includes a parking space identifier indicating the particular parking space that is assigned to the reservation; and

tracking use of the space and updating availability of remaining spaces within the location by monitoring which reservation coupons are presented at the entrance and exit of the location.

27.   (original) The method of Claim 26 further comprising:

receiving a request to extend the duration of time with a new ending time for a parking request; and

updating the database with the new ending time.

28.   (original) The method of Claim 26, further comprising:

receiving information generated from the parking location as to an actual time that a car of the user enters and leaves the parking location; and

correlating the received information with the identification information read at the parking location from the machine readable information of the reservation ticket used for the car by the user.

29.   (previously presented)   The method of Claim 28, further comprising an automatic billing system based upon the received information for billing a user identified from the identification information an amount based upon the actual time the car entered and exited the parking location

and based upon whether the time was within a reserved time specified in the reservation or an extension added to the reservation.

30.   (currently amended)   A method, carried out by a server communicatively connected to a plurality of clients in a network environment, for managing a parking location having a plurality of separate parking spaces, said method comprising:

receiving, from one or more of said clients, a parking request for said parking location for a specific duration of time between a beginning time and an ending time;

accessing a database and determining a status of the parking location during the specific duration of time; [[and]]

initiating an auction for allocating a parking reservation for the parking location if the status of the parking location indicates a certain level of demand during the duration of time that is above a preset threshold level, wherein the parking request associated with the highest bidder is allocated the parking reservation and wherein, when the level of demand is not above the preset threshold level, the parking reservation is allocated without an auction;

receiving an electronic payment from a winner of the auction for an issued reservation corresponding to said parking request;

sending, over the network to the client, a printable reservation ticket having machine readable information including the beginning time and the ending time and identification information for a user using the client to make the parking request, wherein when the reservation ticket assigns a particular space among the plurality of separate parking spaces, the reservation ticket also includes a parking space identifier indicating the particular parking space that is assigned to the reservation; and

tracking use of the space and updating availability of remaining spaces within the location by monitoring which reservation coupons are presented at the entrance and exit of the location.

31.   (currently amended)   A method, carried out by a server communicatively connected to a plurality of clients in a network environment, for managing a parking location having a plurality of separate parking spaces, said method comprising:

receiving, from one of said clients, a parking request for said parking location for a specific duration of time between a beginning time and an ending time;

accessing a database and determining a status of the parking location during the specific duration of time; and

automatically notifying a valet service to pick up a car at a designated location and to park the car at the parking location if the status of the parking location indicates an availability of one of the separate parking spaces for the duration, wherein the valet service electronically receives a reservation ticket for the parking location generated by the parking request and returns the car to the designated location for pick up by the customer who dropped off the car;

sending, over the network to the client, a printable reservation ticket having machine readable information including the beginning time and the ending time and identification information for a user using the client to make the parking request, wherein when the reservation ticket assigns a particular space among the plurality of separate parking spaces, the reservation ticket also includes a parking space identifier indicating the particular parking space that is assigned to the reservation; and

tracking use of the space and updating availability of remaining spaces within the location by monitoring which reservation coupons are presented at the entrance and exit of the location by the valet.